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The general tone of the volume is that of a lament; nor is this at all strange. The name of the Duke de Broglie recalls the past glories of France,—the days of the monarchy and the empire, when the late duke was a leader in public affairs, and his son, the author of the present volume, was acquiring reputation in literature by his essays in the *Revue des deux mondes*. With the exception of the brief period of service of the latter as minister of Foreign Affairs and ambassador at London under the presidency of Thiers, it can hardly be said that the name of Broglie has any association with the new order of things in France. But from the time of Thiers to the days of the candidacy of General Boulanger, the change in France has not been incqn siderable. This change the author of the present volume views with the gravest apprehensions. In his preface, as well as in an address delivered before the Monarchical Union in 1887, he emphasizes the dangers of universal suffrage, and the manner in which it exposes the government to popular passion and caprice. Of such a system he argues that the candidacy of General Boulanger is the natural result; and that, although in the next drawing he may not obtain the prize which he promises himself, yet, if the lottery remains open, some one sooner or later will come who will be more fortunate. In respect to the position of the Catholic church, the author announces that he has seen no reason to alter the views expressed by him in the various writings in which he has attempted to reconcile the authority of the Pope with modern liberty. What these views are may be seen in the essay on Christianity and French society, written a number of years ago and republished in the present volume.

J. B. MOORE.

*Éléments d'économie politique pure.* Par LÉON WALRAS, professeur d'économie politique à l'Académie de Lausanne. Deuxième édition. Lausanne, F. Rouge (Paris, Guillaumin et C<sup>ie</sup>), 1889.—8vo, xxiv, 523 pp.

The original edition of this work appeared in two parts, in the years 1874 and 1877. The new edition shows few changes of principle, but much rearrangement and expansion of details. It now forms by far the most complete and systematic work on the mathematical theory of political economy.

The underlying idea of this theory was developed independently by Jevons in England, Menger in Austria, and Walras in Switzerland. The essential differences between the three are less than they sometimes appear. “*Grenznutzen*” is exactly equivalent to “differential of utility” or “final utility,” and “*rareté*” is so defined by Walras as to mean exactly the same thing. The difference is rather in the form and com-

pletteness with which the theory is developed. Menger makes the least use of mathematics; Walras the most; Jevons occupies an intermediate position. As a result Walras' book is the most difficult for ordinary readers; but his logic is the most rigid, and he has carried out his deductions to cover important points which the others have entirely omitted. While Jevons clearly had priority in publishing the underlying ideas, Walras may still more clearly claim priority in the full development of a system.

The difference in arrangement between Walras and Jevons is very great. Jevons begins with analyzing the utility of different articles or different quantities of the same article to the individual, and thence deduces the conditions of exchange. Walras starts from the facts of exchange in a market, where each article is at once a supply of itself and a demand for something else. He explains the conditions of equilibrium under these circumstances, and in so doing is led to a "theorem of maximum satisfaction" and to an explanation to all intents identical with Jevons' postulates. The form of presentation of the quantities is also generally reversed. While Jevons represents amounts of any given article on the  $X$  axis, and treats value as a function of quantity, Walras generally treats price as the independent variable, to which supply and demand adapt themselves. Each method has its advantages; neither is wholly satisfactory. Walras can claim this advantage for his system, that he has proved his general results for an indefinite number of commodities far more completely than Jevons has done.

One point in Walras' proof of his general proposition seems open to criticism. It relates, not to the reasoning itself, but to an assumption as to business facts. He has analyzed a process of approximation, whereby a number of individual efforts will tend to produce such prices as will bring supply and demand of all articles more and more nearly into equilibrium; and he then says:

Or ce tâtonnement est précisément celui qui se fait de lui-même, *sur le marché des produits*, sous le régime de la libre concurrence, *alors que les entrepreneurs affluent vers les entreprises ou s'en détournent suivant qu'on y fait des bénéfices ou des pertes* [page 241].

In this passage, a comparison of the phrases which I have italicized shows that the author confounds mercantile and industrial competition as completely as Ricardo himself might have done. If the two are not simultaneous, the whole proof loses its force. The general adjustment may be in the opposite direction from what the theory requires. Such is in fact often the case. In a large part of our modern industry the times of active investment of capital are times of advancing prices. True, the additional investment must soon produce a reaction; but this

does not make Walras' account of the process correct. The capital movement and price movement must be simultaneous, or else the theory will be radically wrong. The equilibrium will become a wholly unstable one if the two are separated. Prices in good and bad years may on an average not vary far from cost of production; but the average is made up of widely divergent quantities, and the mercantile conditions, in industries involving large capital, favor such variations instead of preventing them.

ARTHUR T. HADLEY.

*Der Natürliche Werth.* Von Dr. FRIEDRICH VON WIESER, Professor an der Deutschen Universität in Prag. Wien, Alfred Hölder, 1889. — 8vo, xvi, 239 pp.

Economists who have been looking hopefully for a systematic development of the laws of value on the basis of Jevons' theory of utility and Menger's theory of subjective valuations, will open this book with interest. Its aim is avowedly an ambitious one. Professor Wieser himself describes it as an attempt to complete "the new theory" in the sense of extending it to the entire field of the phenomena of value. Unlike the author's former work, *Ueber den Ursprung und die Hauptgesetze des wirtschaftlichen Wertes*, it deals altogether with objective value, and thus meets one of the chief criticisms that have been made upon the Austrian school. The importance of such an attempt, if even approximately successful, is evident. Professor Jevons' exposition was cut short by his untimely death, and the fragment in the hands of Professor Foxwell is not yet published. The *Économie politique pure* of Professor Leon Walras is a systematic work, but it is readable only by those who enjoy an easy familiarity with the higher mathematics. Moreover, the Austrian point of view is sufficiently distinct to make a systematic work by a writer of that school highly desirable. Whether this point of view be acceptable to the reader or not, he will find it ably defended in Professor Wieser's pages, while the particular conclusions therefrom deduced are worked out with originality and precision.

It was a fundamental weakness of the English deductive economy that it postulated conditions that were found to be not true of primitive societies, and that could not be true of an ethically organized society from which certain forms of competition and the purely selfish economic man were banished. If the new deductive economy would be sounder than the old, it must construct a theory of value that will be true for any possible society; for the village community or the commercial metropolis, for the produce exchange or the kingdom of heaven. Professor Wieser has apprehended this necessity and has shaped his expo-